

THE SWEET TASTE OF REVENGE AS CITY'S DEFENCE IS BROKEN

Wycombe Wanderers 1, St Albans City 0

WYCOMBE WANDERERS sampled the sweet taste of revenge at Loakes Park on Tuesday evening with this satisfactory triumph over St. Albans City, who last month eliminated Wycombe from the F.A. Cup competition.

As in their two previous encounters Wycombe showed they were basically the better side. However, on this particular occasion they achieved what they failed to do in the last 180 minutes by piercing the City defensive barrier.

Wanderers were without Tony Horseman, who is suffering from groin trouble, and Julian Lailey, whose swollen ankle is still proving troublesome.

St. Albans, also, were unable to field exactly the same line-up which put Wycombe out of the cup. Hero of the cup matches, City keeper Ron Whiteaker, has broken two ribs which he sustained in the first meeting at Loakes Park and later played without knowledge of the injury, while Broomfield, who got the decisive winner, was missing with ankle trouble.

It was St. Albans who very nearly drew first blood when Lawrence and Butterfield set-up an opening for Childs but Maskell leaped across magnificently to keep the shot out.

GREASY PITCH

The heavy rain during the day made the pitch greasy with the result it was difficult for players to judge their passes and a hazardous business for defenders trying to turn quickly.

Nevertheless, both teams kept the play reasonably open, a refreshing change from the cup battles, allowing the forwards more room to operate in and find the odd gaps through the middle.

Len Worley, still not happy about his pulled muscle, nearly presented St. Albans with gift openings as two casual cross-field passes were easily intercepted. Fortunately, St. Albans were unable to exploit them to full advantage thanks to the sound covering of Rundle and Faulkner.

St. Albans' defence, which proved the stumbling block in the previous games, did not look in such a commanding mood as usual and it was heartening to see Samuels and Busby outjump Burgess, Wood,

Lawrence and co. inside the box.

With Horseman absent a great responsibility fell onto Keith Samuels' shoulders in regards to the scoring department. He responded splendidly to the challenge leading the side well, driving both himself and his men forward and getting through a tremendous amount of work.

The vital goal came after 27 minutes of fairly even exchanges. From a defensive clearance Thomas picked up the ball some 30 yards from goal and feinted as though he was going to put Worley in possession.

However, he switched the pattern of the build-up cleverly by an astute lob into the box where Samuels, running forward, out-jumped Burgess and headed over the advancing Fowler.

NERVOUS FINISH

Towards the end of the second half Wanderers' defensive work became casual and nervous. First Maskell rushed out and missed a cross which Faulkner managed to clear. Then Faulkner pushed a careless pass back to Maskell which Butterfield latched onto only to shoot wide.

At the other end Busby forced Fowler to an inspired save after Faulkner had brilliantly robbed Mann and slotted a through pass down the middle.

In a tense final minute St. Albans, still hunting for the equaliser, came close to scoring when Maskell could only half stop Butterfield's shot and as the ball rolled towards the line Temel raced back to turn it round a post.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; L. Temel, C. Gale; B. Faulkner, I. Rundle, D. Thomas; L. Worley, B. Baker, V. Busby, K. Samuels, S. Thompson.